

Appln No. 09/973,303

Amdt date September 17, 2003

Reply to Office action of June 17, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-9 and 34-40 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 35 have been amended and claims 39 and 40 have been added. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reexamination, reconsideration, and an early indication of allowance of claims 1, 3-9 and 34-40 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3-9, and 34-38 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Colella et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,003,006). The Examiner also rejects claims 1, 3-9, and 34-38 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as allegedly unpatentable over Singer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,234). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a "means for electronically recording said shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items in an electronic receipt." Claims 34 has similarly been amended to recite a "first terminal further configured to electronically record the shelf-life limitation information in an electronic receipt." Neither Colella nor Singer teach or suggest these limitations. No electronic receipts are generated in either Colella or Singer. Accordingly, claims 1 and 34 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 3-9 and 34-40 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain. Specifically, claim 6

Appln No. 09/973,303
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recites a "means for the purchaser to interact with said onscreen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify new product items." Collela and Singer fail to teach or suggest this limitation.

Claim 7 recites a "means for said purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify deleted product items." Collela and Singer fail to teach or suggest this limitation.

Claim 8 recites a "means for said purchaser to interact with said on-screen display of said formatted electronic shelf-life limitation information for each of said one or more product items to identify opened product items." Collela and Singer fail to teach or suggest this limitation.

Claim 36 recites that "the first terminal is configured to store the shelf-life limitation information in an IC card accessible to the purchaser of the product item." Collela and Singer fail to teach or suggest such an IC card.

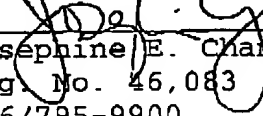
If the Examiner continues to reject claims 3-9 and 34-38, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate where in Collela and Singer the claimed limitations are taught or suggested to allow Applicant a fair opportunity to respond to the rejection.

Claims 39 and 40 are new in this application. Claims 39 and 40 are also allowable because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the limitations that they contain.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow,
Applicant submits that claims 1-9 and 34-40 are now in condition
for allowance, and respectfully requests an early indication of
their allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
Josephine E. Chang
Reg. No. 46,083
626/795-9900

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